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## U.S. Tourist Calls Soviet Charge of Spying 'Silly'

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London Bureau of The Sun

Moscow, Aug. 11—Robert Christner, a 27-year-old American tourist accused of being a spy by the Russians, today called the charges "silly" and "completely unfounded."

Two hours before boarding a train for Helsinki, Christner gave a point-by-point rebuttal of the Soviet statement to reporters at the American Embassy.

Distraught over the charges, the thin, dark-haired student with black horn-rimmed glasses explained he had only been informed of the Russian accusation in the late afternoon hours after the news had been broadcast to the world.

### Waiting Moscow

Christner was touring Moscow with official Intourist guides when the Soviet Foreign Ministry called in the United States Embassy cultural counselor and accused the United States of using the "noble purpose of tourism—to promote understanding" to send spies into the Soviet Union.

The Russians claimed there were other tourists besides Christner who were spies.

Today's latest spy accusation came in a rising vigilance campaign during which the Soviet Union has alleged it found American spies in every category of visitor or tourist that might come into contact with Soviet citizens, except journalists.

### Make Charges

In rapid fire order just before the trial of Francis Gary Powers, U-2 pilot, the Russians asserted they discovered an American student, an American air attaché, an American engineer member of a technical exchange delegation.

Christner was graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He was a member of the American Peace Officers' Council.

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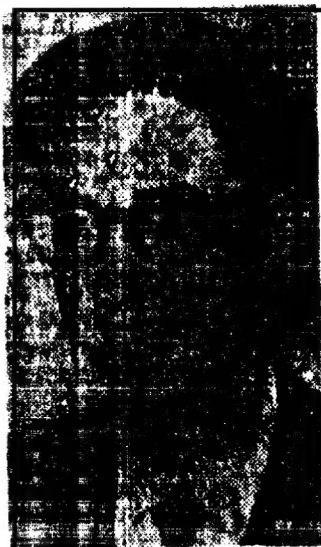
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ROBERT CHRISTNER  
Exbelled by Russians

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ing intelligence from the first day of his arrival in the country. They accused him of taking pictures of railroads, radio aerials, high tension wires and of making sketches and taking notes.

### "Of Course Not"

Were such charges true? Christner was asked "Of course not," he replied.

He explained that like most tourists he took pictures, using a camera with color and with black and white film.

As he is a railroad enthusiast, he took some pictures of depots. No one told him that such objects were considered military targets in the Soviet Union.

The only sketch he made was of a small square in Uzhgorod. Christner said he took notes to keep track of his pictures of ordinary subjects but that those were always taken in the open and never hidden.

He said he had held the door

for one of the leaders of the

after Senator Goldwater (R)

matter.

to two or more days to finish

and they had been underway it might

and vote by tomorrow.

then action and possibly get a

controversial measure to

agreement with opponents of

Senate, called into today to get

and will favor his time in cult-

body (D. Mass.), sponsor of